

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

November 1, 2007

The Honorable Donald C. Winter
Secretary of the Navy
1000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20350-1000

Dear Secretary Winter:

We are writing to request the Department of the Navy's assistance in addressing residual asbestos contamination in buildings located on the Colorado State Fairgrounds property in Pueblo, Colorado, that the Navy occupied as a Naval Reserve Center for decades.

Although the Navy terminated that occupancy in 1999, and removed some "friable" asbestos at that time, there remains a serious amount of asbestos, which makes it difficult for the Colorado State Fairgrounds to safely demolish the buildings and utilize the site.

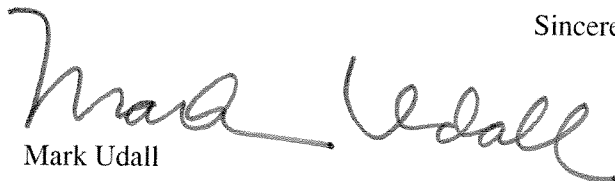
The buildings have remained unoccupied since the Navy vacated the property. As a result, the buildings have fallen into disrepair and have become a target of vandalism – presenting both a health and safety hazard. The Colorado State Fair conducted an investigation of the buildings and found asbestos remaining.

In light of the fact that the Navy benefited from its use and occupancy of these buildings, we are requesting your help in securing the Department of the Navy's participation in a discussion with the Colorado State Fair, the Colorado Department of Health and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to identify cleanup options and areas of responsibility.

Part of the problem in resolving the status of these buildings is that no one has been able to establish the chain of responsibility for removing the asbestos. We are not going to assume that the Navy bears full responsibility for any remaining cleanup, but it does seem to me that it would be helpful if the Navy agreed to participate in a meeting with state and federal authorities to examine the records and determine whether any assistance is appropriate. We plan to ask the EPA to participate as well.

The Navy enjoyed the use of these facilities for many years and paid little in rent to the City of Pueblo or to the State of Colorado. We know the Navy paid for some, but not all of the asbestos removal. We hope that you will agree that a conversation with Navy authorities would be helpful in bringing this problem to closure.

Sincerely,


Mark Udall


John Salazar

cc: The Environmental Protection Agency
The Colorado State Fair
The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment